

AUSTRIANS PUSH SOUTH IN ITALY; 24,400 CAPTIVES

Further Advances on Three Sectors of Tyrol Front Are Announced.

ITALIANS READY FOR COUNTER OFFENSIVE

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. LONDON, May 25.—Continued advances were made by the Austrians in three sectors yesterday in the drive toward the Vienna plain in northeastern Italy.

The column advancing through the Val Sugana occupied the Salubio ridge, the column in the Val Isère is nearing the Val d'Aoste and the forces which recently drove the Italians back from their positions on Monte Maglio and the Cima dei Laghi are now nearing the Polesina Valley, a continuation of the Val Terzognolo, in Italian territory.

In the official statement issued in Vienna today the Austrian War Office gives the total of the prisoners taken so far in the Italian campaign as 24,400, and says that 251 guns and 101 machine guns have been captured.

The Austrian authorities threaten a counter-offensive in the Trentino region because these divisions have left their homes and crossed the border into Italy. In the official statement issued today the Austrian War Office says that these refugees will be "taken to account" for leaving the "fatherland."

The following official statement was issued by the Austrian War Office today:

In the Sugana Valley we occupied the Salubio ridge. The enemy was driven from the Salubio ridge. The enemy was driven from the Salubio ridge. The enemy was driven from the Salubio ridge.

We have captured 24,400 prisoners, including 251 guns and 101 machine guns and 16 trench mortars. In the Polesina zone the enemy was repulsed.

During the evacuation of places in our territory a portion of the Italian army left the captured places. They will be taken to account for leaving the "fatherland."

On Thursday we occupied the Cima dei Laghi, the Cima dei Laghi and the Cima dei Laghi. The enemy was driven from the Cima dei Laghi. The enemy was driven from the Cima dei Laghi.

The battle line runs along the frontier in the area of the Cima dei Laghi. The enemy was driven from the Cima dei Laghi. The enemy was driven from the Cima dei Laghi.

The Italian official report issued today says:

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VERDUN FIGHTING HEAVY; ARTILLERY FIRE TERRIFIC

Continued from First Page.

The advantage of a certain command of French lateral communications, but the French artillery commands the village so thoroughly that it is doubtful whether the Germans will be able to take much advantage of its occupation.

The situation on the western front is summarized by one correspondent as follows:

The crest and the gradual western slope of Hill 304 are still in French hands, as is a redoubt near the crossroads southwest of Hill 287, about half way between Hill 304 and the Bois d'Avocourt. The Germans occupy the northwestern, northern and northeastern slopes of Hill 304, and have made the summit of Le Mort Homme untenable for the French, the latter by their artillery making it also untenable for the Germans, a deadlock leaving the crest a sort of no man's land.

Meanwhile, the Germans are attacking the height just to the south of Le Mort Homme, Hill 255, which is a further continuation of the same ridge. Their efforts generally have failed so far.

CROWN PRINCE GAINS.

Berlin Claims Notable Advances on East Bank of Meuse.

BERLIN, via London, May 25.—The army of the Crown Prince made further notable advances yesterday on the east bank of the Meuse, in the Verdun region, retaking the Haudromont quarry and pushing the advantage gained by the retaking of Fort Douaumont by adding trenches to the southwest and south of the fort.

The French made repeated counter attacks on both sides of the Meuse yesterday at great cost and without making any gain. Three of these vain efforts were directed against the village of Cumieres, on the west bank.

On the east bank of the river the French delivered a series of attacks on the German positions in the Callette wood, south of Fort Douaumont, suffering very heavy losses in killed and wounded and losing more than 850 men taken prisoner.

The German statement said:

German airmen attacked British torpedo boats and patrol boats off the Flanders coast.

West of the Meuse three enemy counter attacks against the village of Cumieres failed.

East of the Meuse our regiments, taking advantage of the successes of the day before, advanced further and captured enemy trenches southwest and south of Fort Douaumont. We recaptured the quarry south of the Haudromont farm.

In the Callette wood the enemy attacked our positions during the whole day without attaining the least success. The enemy suffered very heavy sanguinary losses. In addition we

captured more than 850 prisoners and fourteen machine guns.

An enemy biplane was shot down near St. Souplet and another over Herbecourt.

BRITISH GAIN AT LOOS.

Artillery Active on Both Sides at Many Points Along Line.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. LONDON, May 25.—The following report from British headquarters in France was issued to-night by the official press bureau:

Today there was considerable mining activity in the Loos salient, which resulted to our advantage.

Artillery fire on both sides was active for many points in the line, principally near Commeucourt and Arras, on the Vimy ridge, opposite Hulluch, and in the region of Wythachte. In the region of Commeucourt and Heurvaux our fire was particularly effective.

FRANCE NOT DEPRESSED.

Accepts German Gains as Inevitable Phase of Struggle.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. PARIS, May 25.—France, firm in the conviction that the war can only end in a victory for the right, showed no exaggerated elation at the news that Fort Douaumont had been recaptured, and is showing no exaggerated depression at the news that the position has again been lost. Joy naturally was felt at the former report and regret at the latter.

The French, after visiting the whole front a few days ago, brought back as the army's motto "Il le faut." "What must be must be." The same "spirit" must be the motto of the Allies.

The military circle of the Temps makes the following comment on the recent operations:

"The Germans carried Cumieres, have retaken Fort Douaumont and recaptured a trench north of Haudromont quarries. What has enabled them to drive our brave infantry from the ruins of the fort? It was not their heavy guns, as it was the French heavy guns which destroyed the works of the fort. Our men, driven back by two Havarian divisions, freshly arrived. From the communiqués of yesterday, it is reported that three French divisions are in the region of Le Mort Homme, so that five have been taken from other points without any opposing such a movement. This failure north of Verdun is very regrettable, but too much importance must not be attributed to it as involving doubt regarding the final issue. The enemy losses heavily in each attack and cannot expect to repeat the advance. Our attitude costs us dear also, and it may be asked whether some other form of warfare would not on the whole be less onerous."

Accuses French of Cruelty.

Berlin Paper Says German Wounded Were Mistreated.

WILSON SAYS PEACE TALK IS PREMATURE

President Tells Callers Offer of Mediation Would Not Be Acceptable.

WASHINGTON, May 25.—President Wilson explained to callers today that he did not believe an offer to mediate in the European war would be opportune at the present moment. To be effective, the President explained, an offer of mediation must come at a time when it is likely to be favorably considered by all the belligerents. That time, the President believes, has not yet arrived. It is said that the President may develop this idea in his address before the League to Enforce Peace, which meets here to-morrow.

Although the President's attitude on the subject has been known to persons in his counsel the direct statement coming from the President himself has added further emphasis to the hopelessness of persuading the belligerents to enter peace parties. All the information from the Entente now indicates that Germany's peace suggestions will not be accepted.

Sir Edward Grey's declaration in Parliament that "peace talk is idle" is regarded in official circles as part of the Entente's campaign against Germany's peace propaganda in the United States.

Wants Wilson's Backing.

President Wilson is, of course, willing to mediate any peace proposal which Germany cares to make to the Entente, but he is not willing to endorse the German proposal to the extent of adding the ultimatum of acceptance or rejection to it. The Imperial Government desires first to have the backing of President Wilson for peace proposals.

The President is understood to have been closely following the trend of public opinion in all the belligerent countries with a view to ascertaining what peace prospects there may be.

Asks President to Act.

A resolution was introduced in the Senate today by Senator James Hamilton Lewis requesting President Wilson to tender peace overtures to the combatants. The resolution provides for the formation of a board of arbitration, composed of the neutral nations of the world, with the United States as referee.

Each belligerent should have the privilege of choosing a neutral nation to represent it on the arbitrating board. This arbitration commission should have the power to "settle upon such terms as in all the circumstances would appear to be the fairest and most equitable."

President Wilson is asked to act in this manner "unless to him such proposals appear to be in the public interest of the United States."

PEACE TALK LIKED.

Berlin Comment on Wilson Speech Shows Receptive Mood.

BERLIN, via London, May 25.—President Wilson's reference to the possibility of American mediation in the war, made in the course of his speech at Charlotte, N. C., has been seized upon with interest by the German press. A digest of his address has been received by wireless and the newspapers give it prominence and comment upon it editorially as well.

Although the German press does not make the definite statement, it is apparent from the tone of the comment that mediation by the United States would be welcomed at the present time.

The disposition to refuse America's service in this line because of her munitions exports seems to have disappeared from the press and the public. It is believed that Germany will cheerfully accept the President as a mediator provided he can show any definite possibilities of requisites for Germany.

However, it is a prerequisite for Germany is not desirous of accepting America's good offices only to have the Allies reject the tender and assert that the Teutonic Republic is a mediator.

The Reichstag spent this afternoon in discussing the press censorship and other war restrictions, which have become unpopular. Resolutions were moved by the budget committee to require the military authorities to obtain the consent of the Chancellor before suspending the publication of any newspaper.

The Reichstag was asked to introduce a bill suspending the civil rights of the people in non-military matters from enforcement. Another resolution asked the Chancellor to guarantee the impartiality of the censorship and its restriction to military matters only.

The British Government has issued a permit authorizing the American Express Company to forward money to subjects of the Allied Powers in Russian territory occupied by Germany or Austria.

The remittances, however, must not exceed \$25 (\$125) for any month. The payment orders must be accompanied by a statement that the American Express Company has secured assurance that the money is not to be paid to any enemy.

Many letters from sufferers in the war zone have been received in the United States begging for money, saying that starvation is imminent unless funds reach them.

England Willing to Censor Movies.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. LONDON, May 25.—Herbert Samuel, the Home Secretary, intimated today the willingness of the Government to establish a central independent committee of cinematograph films under the Home Office.

Russians Retake Trench.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. PETERSBURG, May 25.—The Russian War Office issued the following official statement to-night regarding the operations on the western front:

West of the island of Dahlen the Germans captured a trench, but were dislodged.

70,000,000 Seeds in China.

SHANGHAI, May 25.—Shanghai, the most westerly province in China, with a population of 70,000,000, has declared its independence.

LLOYD GEORGE IS NAMED TO SEEK IRISH SETTLEMENT

Will Confer With Nationalist and Ulster Leaders in Effort to Reach Immediate Agreement on Home Rule Difficulty.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. LONDON, May 25.—One of the most impressive scenes in the House of Commons since the beginning of the war occurred this afternoon when Premier Asquith made his eagerly awaited statement on Ireland.

Many speculations and hopes were built on the words which were expected from the Premier, but those who believed that the situation could be completely clarified were doomed to disappointment. Nevertheless the Premier's few words were delivered amid profound silence, the audience listening with intense interest.

The announcement was greeted with warm approval from all sides.

The Premier's statement was a personal courtesy of Mr. Asquith, who did not hear a single dissenting voice or protest when the Premier, instead of making the sensational disclosures expected, in a calm, quiet voice urged the members of the House to consider the national interest of the whole country in the interest of the whole country.

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U BOATS BUSIEST IN MEDITERRANEAN

Increase in Number of Vessels Sunk Indicates Centre of Activity.

THE WASHINGTON LOST

LONDON, May 25.—Lloyd's reported today that the British steamship Washington, of 5,000 tons, has been sunk by a submarine.

From the increased number of reports of vessels sunk in the Mediterranean it is evident that it is in this sea that the undersea boats are most numerous and active. Although recently the submarines have given warning before striking, sailors have been killed in the confusion of naming the lifeboats. The vessels sunk are intelligent and neutral, both Norway and Greece having suffered severely in loss of shipping.

In most cases the submarines have been reported as German U boats have been reported.

A despatch from Athens says that much indignation has been aroused throughout Greece over the torpedoing by German submarines of the Greek ship Adamantios Korais, a steamer of 4,000 tons, which was carrying 4,742 tons of wheat, and damaged by a submarine. This vessel has been lying between American and Italian ports.

Attacks on U Boats.

British Trawler and Steamship Said to Have Fired When Halted.

BERLIN, via London, May 25.—The Overseas News Agency quotes the Nieuwe Rotterdamse Courant as reporting the attempted destruction of a German submarine off the Irish coast by a British trawler flying a Swedish flag.

The affair was witnessed by the Dutch steamship Sverdrup, which was signalled to stop by the submarine. When the submarine signalled the trawler, which was flying the Swedish flag, and then fired a shot across her bow, the trawler replied with cannon shot. The shot grazed the top of the submarine. When the submarine signalled the trawler, still flying the Swedish flag, dropped two bombs on the trawler, which placed where the submarine went under.

Another attempt on the same submarine is also cited by the news agency. A steamship of about 2,000 tons, which did not fly a flag, was signalled to halt, but did not do so despite a shot from the submarine. When some distance away the crew of the steamship lowered the boats, but when the submarine approached the British flag was hoisted and the vessel opened fire with a gun mounted on the stern of the boat. The submarine escaped by submerging.

BRITISH SEIZE DUTCH SHIPS.

Three Are Taken Into Kijkvallen for Examination.

LONDON, May 25.—The following Dutch steamships have been taken into Kijkvallen by the British authorities for examination:

The Winterswijk, from Philadelphia, May 5, for Rotterdam, with a cargo of wheat, the Winterswijk, Rotterdam, May 19, for Rotterdam, in ballast, and the Metropool, from Rotterdam for New York, in ballast.

The Danish steamship United States, from New York, May 11, for Copenhagen, has been released after an examination.

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